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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated November 30, 2007. Claims 2-19, 21-38 and 40-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 23 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, more specifically, that "sharing ratio" is a ratio for sharing processing resources between a first processing way and a second processing way. This clarification of "sharing ratio" was explained in the record (see, for example, page 15 of October 10, 2007 Amendment and page 16 of June 6, 2006 Amendment), and therefore it is submitted that the claim amendments do not introduce new issue. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of claims 2-19, 21-38 and 40-57, with claims 4 and 23 being in independent form, are requested.

The disclosure was objected to as having informalities. Claims 21-38 and 40-57 were objected to as having informalities. In response thereto, the specification and claims have amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims and the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-19, 21-38, and 40-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

While the term "print function" is not explicitly defined in the specification, the term is well understood in the art as well as in everyday usage.

For example, devices such as printers, copiers, facsimile machines, multi-function devices (that is, having print, copy, facsimile functions) can have a print function. As indicated on page two, lines 10-17 (reproduced below) of the application, an image processing apparatus can refer to such a device (that is, printer, copier, etc.):

Usually, with *an image processing apparatus, such as a copying machine or a printer, an image is output or printed* out after being changed in its size in many

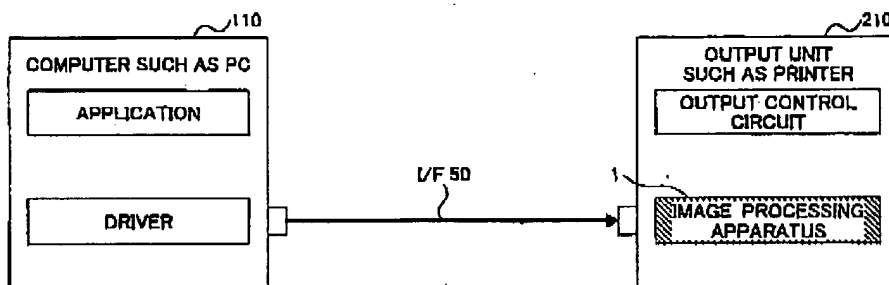
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cases. For example, when printing out a photographic image taken with a digital camera via a printer, generally a change in size into an image suitable for the size of a printing paper may be performed.

Further, Fig. 10 (reproduced below) of the present application (see also the discussion in connection therewith at page 25, line 24 through page 27, line 2) shows by example that the image processing apparatus of the present application can be included in a printer:

FIG.10



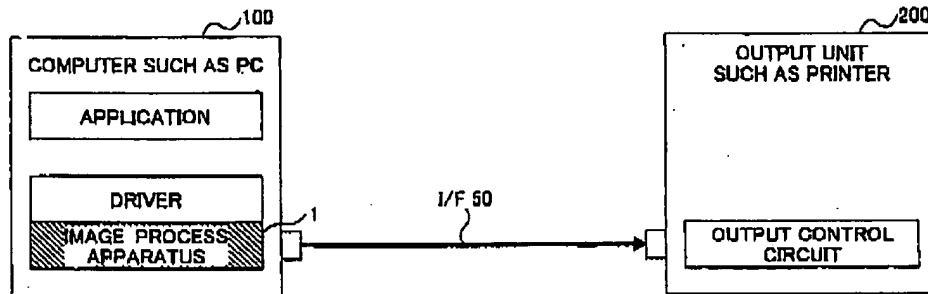
Further, page 26, lines 22-25, of the application explains that in the example of Fig. 10 image data is processed by the image processing apparatus in the printer and output processing for printing is performed.

On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 10 (reproduced below) of the present application and discussed in connection therewith at page 25, lines 4-23, of the present application, the image processing apparatus can be software configured on a computer, such as in a printer driver.

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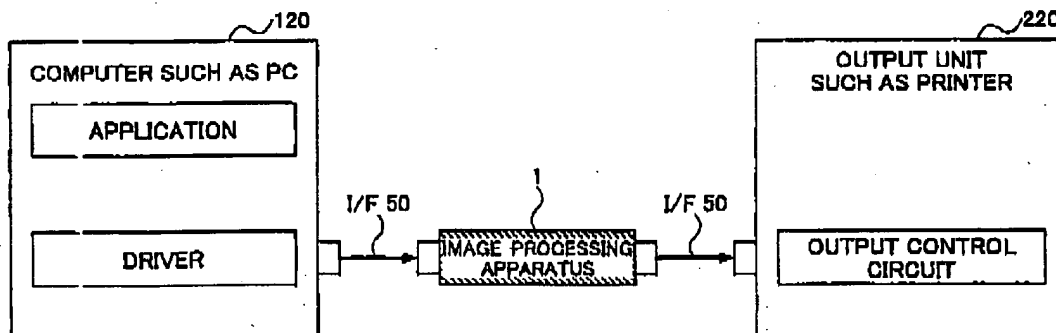
FIG.9



Such apparatus (that is, configured in a computer) of course also has a print function for submitting processed image data as a print job to a printer.

In addition, as shown in Fig. 11 (reproduced below) of the present application and discussed in connection therewith at page 27, lines 3-23, of the present application, the image processing apparatus can be neither integrated in a computer nor integrated in a printer, but rather is an apparatus between the computer and the printer:

FIG.11



As discussed at page 27, lines 17-23, such an image processing apparatus also has a function of outputting processed image data for printing.

Accordingly, applicant submits that "print function" is a term that would be understood

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by one skilled in the art both in a normal context as well as the context of this application, and therefore no indefiniteness issues are present from its use in the claims of the present application.

Regarding "sharing ratio", the term has been amended to clarify that it is a ratio for sharing processing resources between a first processing way and a second processing way. This clarification of "sharing ratio" was explained in the record (see, for example, page 16 of June 6, 2006 Amendment), and therefore it is submitted that the claim amendments do not introduce new issue.


Whether a table is used is not essential to use of the invention claimed in the present application. On the other hand, it should be clear that the claims of the present application provided for the use of a sharing ratio to allocate processing resources between a first processing way and a second processing way, for changing a size of image data.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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